

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5288

S E C R E T KINSHASA 7920

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CG

SUBJECT: MOBUTU AGAIN RAISES BORG CASE

REF: KINSHASA 7919

1. SUMMARY: AT END OF MEETING AUGUST 19 (REFTEL), MOBUTU BROUGHT UP THE CASE OF LUBUMBASHI CONSUL BORG AND REITERATED REQUEST THAT HE BE WITHDRAWN. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, DURING WHICH I EXPRESSED DISMAY THAT CASE SHOULD BE REOPENED LONG AFTER I HAD IN GOOD FAITH INFORMED WASHINGTON THAT IT WAS SETTLED, MOBUTU AGREED TO DROP THE MATTER. HOWEVER, HE MADE CLEAR HIS UNHAPPINESS AND CASE MAY YET REAPPEAR, POSSIBLY IN CONNECTION WITH IMPENDING TRIALS OF NGUZA AND MWANT YAV. END SUMMARY.

2. AT END OF MY MEETING WITH MOBUTU THIS MORNING, HE QUITE ABRUPTLY BROUGHT UP THE MATTER OF PARKER BORG. MOBUT SAID THAT HE WAS STILL UPSET BY THE CND ALLEGATIONS AGAINST BORG AND THAT HE WISHED US TO WITHDRAW BORG QUIETLY SO HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO HAVE HIM EXPELLED. MOBUTU MENTIONED IN PASSING SOME OF THE SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS, NOTABLY COMMENTS BORG ALLEGEDLY MADE TO ZAIRIAN CONTACTS IN LUBUMBASHI AND KOLWEZI CONCERNING DIVERSION OF US MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR SHABA AND MOBUTU'S TRANSFERRING FUNDS ABROAD. (MOBUTU DID NOT, HOWEVER, REFER TO BORG'S CONTACTS

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WITH THE MWANT YAV.) MOBUTU SAID IT WAS INADMISSIBLE FOR A FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC OFFICIAL TO MAKE SUCH STATEMENTS WHICH IMPUGNED THE PRESTIGE AND INTEGRITY OF A HOST COUNTRY'S CHIEF OF STATE.

3. I EXPRESSED MY SINCERE REGRET THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD RAISE AGAIN THIS MATTER, WHICH I HAD CONSIDERED LONG AGO TO HAVE BEEN SETTLED AND HAD SO INFORMED WASHINGTON. I SAID I HAD

PERSONALLY REVIEWED THIS WHOLE MATTER AND WAS CONVINCED THAT WHATEVER CHARGES HAD BEEN MADE AGAINST BORG WERE EITHER NOT CORRECT OR THE RESULT OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS. I SAID ALL MEMBERS OF THE US MISSION WERE UNDER MY STANDING INSTRUCTIONS TO AVOID ANY ACTIONS THAT MIGHT BE VIEWED AS INTERFERENCE IN ZAIRE'S SOVEREIGN AFFAIRS, AND I WAS CONVINCED THAT BORG -- A HIGHLY RESPECTED OFFICER IN OUR SERVICE -- HAS ACTED ACCORDINGLY. I HAD THEREFORE BEEN GRATIFIED WHEN NGUZA HAD INFORMED ME IN JUNE THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD AGREED TO DROP THE WHOLE MATTER IN THE INTEREST OF MAINTAINING OUR GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS. I EXPRESSED MY SINCERE HOPE THAT, HAVING INFORMED WASHINGTON THAT THE BOOK WAS CLOSED, I WOULD NOT NOW HAVE TO REPORT THAT IT WAS BEING REOPENED.

4. MOBUTU SAID HE HAD NOT IN FACT TOLD NGUZA THAT THE MATTER WAS DROPPED; RATHER, HE HAD TOLD NGUZA THAT HE WOULD DEFER A FINAL DECISION. BUT, MOBUTU WENT ON, IN VIEW OF WHAT NGUZA HAD TOLD ME, HE WOULD NOW IN FACT LET THE MATTER DROP. HE ADDED A FINAL WARNING THAT HE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO INSIST ON BORG'S REMOVAL SHOULD THERE BE ANY SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE. I EXPRESSED MY SATISFACTION WITH THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION AND MY CONFIDENCE THAT NO SUCH INCIDENTS WOULD OCCUR.

5. COMMENT: AS INDICATED REFTTEL, NGUZA'S ARREST RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT BORG'S CASE WOULD BE RESURRECTED. BY DOING SO, MOBUTU MAY HAVE MERELY INTENDED TO UNDERSCORE HIS ANNOYANCE  
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WITH US, PERHAPS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEMARCHE I HAD JUST FINISHED MAKING WITH RESPECT TO NGUZA. BUT BY PINNING THE BLAME ON NGUZA FOR ALLEGEDLY FALSELY CONVEYING THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON BORG, MOBUTU OPENS UP THE BROADER POSSIBILITY THAT THIS MAY SOMEHOW BE INCORPORATED IN THE CHARGES AGAINST NGUZA. IT IS PREMATURE TO START SPINNING HYPOTHETICAL WEBS OF HOW THE BORG CASE MIGHT BE WORKED INTO THE TRIALS OF NGUZA AND THE MWANT YAV, BUT THE POTENTIAL IS THERE AND MOBUTU'S RAISING THIS MATTER NOW, TOGETHER WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF AMERICAN C.I.S. EMPLOYEES IN THE CHARGES AGAINST COLONEL MAMPA (LUBUM-BASHI 673 AND 676) MAY INDICATE THAT MOBUTU YET INTENDS TO TURN THE CURRENT PURGE IN OUR DIRECTION.  
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